

MINUTES
FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Tom Franz called the September 7, 2018 Financial Oversight Committee meeting to order at 3:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: In attendance were committee members Russ Alcorn, Brandon Davis, Tom Franz, Mark Hensley, Hank Hull, Andy Perigo, Finance Director Leslie Haase, Council Liaison Taylor Brown. Guests were Diane Reid Adams, AJ Whistler and Lynn Onstot.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion began on the question being, what is the charge from council. Leslie stated they were asked to look at revenue source. Taylor mentioned what was discussed at a previous council work session; comparing other cities pay ranges. He mentioned they would like to close the gap between the five cities and Joplin. He stated they want to find another revenue option to get closer to 80%. Discussion on putting Use Tax back on the ballot in 2019. Is there something to do in the next few years to increase revenue. Discussion went on about not making it just Police and Fire, but to be inclusive of all employees.

Diane stated they do need to find a revenue source that is financially sustainable. She stated to look at different avenues and to have a target number. Taylor is going to work on getting answers to some questions from the board; a weighted average-dollar amount, and the motion from City Council-was it police and fire or all staff. Leslie put together some ideas for possible revenue sources. The options are a real property tax, the use tax or a ¼-cent fire protection sales tax. There are two taxes that won't help in this situation, but are available, Economic Development Sales Tax and Joplin Historical Location and Museums Sales Tax. Leslie had her staff compile a list of cities around us that compared their city sales tax rate with ours, and ours is sitting pretty high, comparatively. She touched on the Police and Fire Pension Plan being one of the biggest financial risks to the City. She had the Assistant Finance Director get the cities that were looked at for the pay comparison and get their general fund revenue budgets for comparison. Their revenue budgets are much larger than Joplin. They all have property tax and sales tax and City of Joplin does not. Leslie states the issue for putting the Use Tax back on the ballot in April is that it doesn't allow the state enough time to catch up to the Supreme Court ruling. Another item she addressed is the Public Safety Sales Tax, it is broken up into some capital items and some operational items, it stated that we were going to hire 30 more police officers and 30 some odd fire fighters. We also have street lights included in that. The issue becomes if raises come out of that money would we be able to build station 7 and staff it. Leslie stated she is not sure if there will be enough to hire those people and do street lights out of that tax. Taylor stated he is going to double check and make sure there isn't police and fire language as far as the charge is concerned. He will work on that and try and get answers as soon as possible.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Set date of next regular meeting: Friday, September 28, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

ADJOURN:

With no further business to come before the committee, a motion was made by Brandon Davis, second by Andy Perigo to adjourn at 4:10p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Roschelle Forsythe, Secretary